



Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018

Prepared by

The Rogers Community Development Block Grant Office

For Submission to

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

Program Year 2018 is the first year of the current Five Year Consolidated Plan (2018-2022). Communities develop their own programs and funding priorities based on local needs using HUD's established guidelines to define projects/activities that may be undertaken to ensure each project/activity meets one of the national objectives of the CDBG Program. This report to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) describes the use of Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds during this Program Year. The City of Rogers received \$459,229 in CDBG funding in Program Year 2018 with a carryover of \$33,738.63 from prior year's funding.

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a focus for using CDBG grant money to meet the City's housing goal of decent housing and objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons by improving the quality of owner housing which will increase the availability of permanent housing in standard condition at an affordable cost and retain attainable housing stock. Sixteen (16) houses received rehabilitation at a cost of \$300,951.02. This cost included some funds spent in 2018 to finish up three houses shown on the 2017 CAPER, rehab administration, materials for volunteer labor, and the paint program. If the houses were counted in 2017, they were not counted in 2018. Five homeowners were extremely low income, three were very low, and eight were low income. Four of the homes were married couples with children and two were married without children. One was a widowed lady. Eight of the homes either had the homeowner or someone living in the home disabled. Three homeowners were single moms with children and three were single without children. Five of the homeowners were considered elderly. Work completed on these homes included bringing hot water heaters to code, energy efficient windows, doors and storm doors, energy efficient HVAC units, electrical and plumbing work to code, water service lines repaired, gutters and downspouts, flooring, ductwork, and siding. Stoves and cabinets that would not work were also replaced. All homes with suspected water damage and leaks were tested for mold and safe practices were used to clean those areas and remediate any mold found. Houses were retested after work done for clearance. All testing was done by a certified mold inspector. Lead based paint testing was done on four houses and minor remediation was done on three of these houses where lead based paint was found on a few windows that were being replaced. No paint was disturbed in the fourth house. All houses were retested after work done for clearance. All testing was done by a certified lead-based paint inspector.

The City also provided funding for six public service projects meeting the City's goals of suitable living environments and objectives of benefiting low and moderate income persons by improving and increasing access to services; however, only five were actually funded in 2018. One public service project was not funded until 2019 due to a change needed in the scope of work for this activity. The City's transportation assistance public service project improved the mobility of our elderly and disabled income eligible

citizens. Transportation assistance was provided to 116 individuals at a cost of \$26,402 (\$1,950.78 2016 funds and \$24,451.22 2017 funds). A grant to Boys and Girls Club provided after school and summer care for children. There were 158 (110 extremely low and 48 low) people impacted by this project at a cost of \$12,000. A grant to CASA provided advocacy for 49 Rogers' children living in foster care at a cost of \$5,000. All 49 were extremely low income. A grant to Sunshine School and Development Center in the amount of \$8,000 impacted 94 people with 70 being extremely low and 24 moderate income. A grant in the amount of \$10,000 was given to Open Avenues to provide transportation assistance. This grant allowed 30 physically and mentally disabled adults to be brought to the center each day to work in an environment with other physically and mentally challenged adults. They were also taken home each night after their shift had ended. All 30 were extremely low income.

There was one 2018 facility project started in 2018. It will complete in 2019.

The development of affordable housing and preserving affordable housing did not see any changes this year, but the CDBG Office is working with Community Development to work with our developers to not only develop affordable housing in the City but also to preserve affordable housing stock in downtown Rogers. One of the homes receiving CDBG rehabilitation funding was located in the downtown area of Rogers.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

| Goal | Category | Source / Amount | Indicator | Unit of Measure | Expected – Strategic Plan | Actual – Strategic Plan | Percent Complete |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Administration | Administration | CDBG: \$49,307.00 | Other | Other | 5000 | 1583 | 32.00% |
| Community Clinic | Services | CDBG: \$3,800.00 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 1100 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Housing | Affordable Housing | CDBG: \$0.00 | Rental units rehabilitated | Household Housing Unit | 0 | 0 | Did not do rental rehabilitation |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Housing | Affordable Housing | CDBG: \$300,951.02 | Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated | Household Housing Unit | 16 | 16 | 100.00% |
| Open Avenues Public Service | Non-Homeless Special Needs | CDBG: \$10,000.00 | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 30 | 30 | 100.00% |
| Public Service – One Child, One Advocate | Neglected and Abused Children | CDBG: \$5,000.00 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 49 | 49 | 100.00% |
| Public Service – Sunshine School | Childhood Education for Disabled Children | CDBG: \$8,000.00 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 94 | 94 | 100.00% |
| Public Service – Transportation Assistance | Transportation Assistance | CDBG: \$26,402.00 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 116 | 116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Public Service – Boys and Girls Club (Rogers Unit) | Child Care | CDBG: \$12,000.00 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 158 | 158 | 100.00% |
| | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|----|----|--------|
| Souls Harbor Facility Upgrades | Homeless Shelter | CDBG: \$91,500.00 | Public facilities activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 35 | 25 | 71.00% |
| Encourage Development of Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing | CDBG: \$0.00 | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 5 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Preserve Affordable Housing in Downtown Rogers | Affordable Housing | CDBG: \$0.00 | Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit | Persons Assisted | 40 | 1 | 3.00% |

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Housing and emergency repairs comprised 73% of the grant funds used in Program Year 2018. It should be noted that ten percent of that amount was allocated to housing rehab administration. The city undertook 16 homes for rehabilitation or emergency repair. A total of 48 individuals were helped by this program. The City earmarked 100% of their 2018 housing dollars on this objective. We have applications that were received in late 2018. Those will be processed in 2019 using 2018 funds and will be shown in the 2019 CAPER.

For service projects, the City allocated 13.37% of their funds. All service projects were completed except transportation assistance and Community Clinic. We always carry over money each year for transportation assistance to keep that program running until we receive new funding. The City provided free rides for 116 elderly and/or disabled citizens who met HUD income guidelines. After School and Summer Care Programs by the Boys and Girls Club received a 2018 grant. This program provided character education, physical fitness, financial education, leadership and community service as well as providing field trips and special events for these kids. It provided a safe and developmentally appropriate place for

children and enabled their parents to maintain their employment. There were 158 people impacted by this grant. CASA, One Child-One Advocate also received a 2018 grant providing advocacy that touched 49 lives living in Rogers. Children in these homes had been removed from their homes because of abuse and put in foster care. Sunshine School and Development Center received a 2018 grant used to help provide transportation services to developmentally challenged children to be able to mainstream them into public schools. This grant impacted 94 people. Open Avenues also received a grant to help with transportation costs to get their clients to the center each day for work. Open Avenues provides employment, job training, life skills training as well as job placement services for mentally and physically disabled adults. Open Avenues provides a place for disabled adults to achieve a sense of pride, belonging, and purpose and all of this starts with their ability to get to Open Avenues each day. Thirty adults received this service. The grant to Community Clinic was extended to 2019. Prior to the 2018 grant being made available, Community Clinic contacted the City about using the funding for a different purpose. The original intended purpose was no longer available to their clients. It took until 2019 to receive the activity change paperwork and make the approved changes. Details for this activity will be included in the 2019 CAPER.

The public facility project was started in 2018, but it will not complete until 2019. The city spent 3.16% of their spending on this project in Program Year 2018.

Administration accounted for 10.47% of the 2018 grant.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

| | CDBG |
|---|------------|
| White | 431 |
| Black or African American | 19 |
| Asian | 0 |
| American Indian or American Native | 8 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 2 |
| Total | 460 |
| Hispanic | 204 |
| Not Hispanic | 256 |

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

According to the 2010 census, 28% of Rogers' population is a minority race. Hispanics make up 31% of that population; however, their numbers are counted with "white" in the census count. As the table above indicates, 6% of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant Program participants were non white. Of the 94% who make up the white count, 44% of the participants were Hispanic. If you look at the American Fact Finder stats for 2017, they show 63% of the population white, non-Hispanic, 1% of the population black, non-Hispanic, 30% Hispanic, 3% Asian or Pacific Islander non-Hispanic, 1% Native American, non-Hispanic, and 2% other, non-Hispanic.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

| Source of Funds | Source | Resources Made Available | Amount Expended During Program Year |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CDBG | CDBG | 459,265 | 414,308.08 |
| HOME | HOME | | |
| HOPWA | HOPWA | | |
| ESG | ESG | | |
| Other | Other | | |

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes funds available each year through four programs--CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. The City of Rogers only receives CDBG funding. The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is the way the City reports its goals to HUD each year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

| Target Area | Planned Percentage of Allocation | Actual Percentage of Allocation | Narrative Description |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Low Income Individuals or Families | 100 | 100 | Meet all criteria for CDBG funding regardless of where they live |

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

In Program Year 2018, the City of Rogers supported core service activities that addressed community-wide concerns and needs while focusing on our housing rehabilitation projects as our main goal. The 2018 funding benefitted low income individuals and families who were 80% of the area median.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City only receives CDBG funding. The amount the City receives makes it difficult to leverage our funding, but we continue to look for ways to make that work. In the past we have purchased land for the development of the first Habitat for Humanity Subdivision in the State of Arkansas, partnered with Open Avenues to help open a new facility that provides employment and care for disabled adults living in Rogers, and partnered with the City to build sidewalks in our census tracts where over 51% of the population were low income. In 2018 we partnered with Souls Harbor to rehabilitate a building that will house men with addictions and are homeless. This rehabilitation will also provide secure counseling services to these men as well. We did not get the project up and running in 2018 due to some delays in actual design for the rehabilitation. This project will complete in 2019 using 2018 funds.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

| | One-Year Goal | Actual |
|--|---------------|----------|
| Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 |

Table 5 – Number of Households

| | One-Year Goal | Actual |
|--|---------------|-----------|
| Number of households supported through Rental Assistance | 0 | 0 |
| Number of households supported through The Production of New Units | 0 | 0 |
| Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units | 16 | 16 |
| Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 16 |

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to support the rehab of 16 extremely low to low income owner-occupied single-family housing units. At the end of 2018, we had applications to get ready to bid in 2019. Those will be submitted with the 2019 CAPER. The number of assisted units fluctuates from year to year dependent upon how many applications we receive; however, we are on schedule to meet our program goals for the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan period.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City of Rogers will continue to make housing rehabilitation a priority in their future Annual Action Plans. The City would like to see a more realistic timeline for completing applications in the year they were received; however we don't always receive the application in time to process, inspect, bid and complete construction within the funding year nor do we have all the funds available to do all the work requested. Another impact is when we receive the funding. In Program Year 2018 we did not receive our funding until the end of September.

The City's construction rehab programs continues to experience cost increases as the cost of materials and labor is going up. The CDBG Office is working with the Community Development Department to look for alternative sources of funding when available.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

| Number of Households Served | CDBG Actual | HOME Actual |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Extremely Low-income | 5 | 0 |
| Low-income | 11 | 0 |
| Moderate-income | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 0 |

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Safe, warm and dry houses will continue to be the factor in the City's efforts to earmark funding for housing rehabilitation each Program Year.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City of Rogers continues their commitment to decent and affordable housing to address the homelessness situation and those at risk of becoming homeless. The City has worked with the University of Arkansas in their point in time count in 2013 and 2015 and worked with the HARK Collaboration Group in their point in time count done in January 2018 and 2019. The CDBG Administrator is also working with a group called Tapestry House. Their plans are to purchase a house in Rogers for the sole purpose of housing a homeless individual, couple, or family to help them get on their feet by providing a very low rent to stay in the house. Tapestry House will work with the Continuum of Care group in selecting an individual, couple, or family for the Tapestry House. The City is also a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care, a coalition of Northwest Arkansas cities and agencies who have teamed together to set a goal of targeting the homeless and assist individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependence services as well as many other needs which include assessments of individuals, chronically homeless, as well as veterans living on the street who typically do not access shelter or other homeless services. Part of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care outreach is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness. The Continuum of Care has set a goal to be 0% homeless by 2025. The CDBG Administrator has attended those meetings and the City will do whatever it can to help this group meet their goals. By funding the rehabilitation of Soul's Harbor some of our CDBG funding will directly support homeless individuals. You can either choose to engage the community or you can ignore the problem. The City of Rogers does not want to ignore the problem.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Three of these agencies have received funding from the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Those agencies are Seven Hills Homeless Shelter, CASA, and Souls Harbor. CASA and Souls Harbor were both recipients of 2018 funding; however, the Souls Harbor construction part of the project will not get underway until the first quarter of 2019. CASA provides placement for children removed from their homes due to an at risk situation in their homes. This basically puts these children in a homeless situation without the ability to place them in structured homes. Souls Harbor is a facility that houses men with addiction and these addictions have rendered many of them homeless. Both Souls Harbor and CASA would be considered emergency and interim housing for these individuals. Individuals at these locations meet the needs of the residents and either make appropriate referrals or offer the services they need.

There are different kinds of shelters to address shelter and transitional housing needs for homeless

households in Northwest Arkansas. We have overnight shelters that can somewhat meet food needs and be a place to find out if they would be willing to participate in case management or receive more intensive services that ultimately could lead to interim housing. Interim housing helps to reduce the amount of time people spend homeless with a goal to get into permanent housing as soon as possible. Permanent supportive housing helps clients to maintain residential stability. Many of these clients may have serious and persistent disability such as mental illness, substance use disorders, HIV/AIDS, all of which can contribute to chronic homelessness. Safe Havens are housing programs for individuals who are difficult to engage in services. We know the ultimate solution to ending homelessness is permanent housing closely aligned with supportive services that ensure housing stability.

The Homeless Needs Assessment and Point In Time Count has been a tool to enable the City to be better prepared to assist the homeless to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The City of Rogers has met with organizations interested in bringing transitional facilities to Rogers; however, those organizations have not moved forward with any projects. The City receives no ESG funds.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The City of Rogers is not an agency that can take this on. We do know that circumstances that cause homelessness include eviction, loss of income, insufficient income, disability, housing costs increases, being discharged from an institution, irreparable damage or deterioration of housing, and family violence. All we can do is be involved and provide support in areas that we are able to lend our CDBG funding to assist in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living and preventing these individuals and families from becoming homeless again.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City of Rogers continues its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers and to help rehabilitate homes that would otherwise be destined for condemnation. We feel it is imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and prevent anyone from being homeless due to the condition of their home. We don't have a large problem with youth living in existing foster care and

residential facilities being discharged with no housing in place; however, we need to make sure that adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We also need to make sure that we can continue to meet the needs of our youth as the population increases each year in the Northwest Arkansas metro area. This will require good coordination from all agencies involved with homelessness. Our 2018-2022 strategic plan will continue providing CDBG funds to support activities that provide services and/or eliminate homelessness.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing Office. All of Benton County falls under the Public Housing Authority at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Office. The City does have 755 units of low income housing available with 56 of those units available for elderly only. Another 72 senior units are scheduled for future construction when Federal funding becomes available. Some of the newer complexes are energy star rated. The City continues to work in any endeavor it can to assure there is affordable housing in Rogers. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator tries to stay in contact with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority and refers any residents who contact us for low income housing or Section 8 vouchers to the Siloam Springs office. We do get complaints from time to time about the distance from Rogers to Siloam Springs which is difficult for our low income residents in need of public housing or Section 8 vouchers.

Actions taken to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

The CDBG Administrator attends and stays involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Siloam Springs PHA is not designated as troubled.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The primary barriers to affordable housing is housing affordability and lack of money for affordable housing. For several years Rogers saw a drop in home prices that put more homes within reach for the low to moderate-income individuals and families; however, the number of available houses left on the market after the housing crisis has pretty much diminished. We are now beginning to see prices escalate. The economy has definitely improved in Northwest Arkansas. The City has encouraged development of housing for low-income by being as flexible as we can be with zoning laws to encourage the developer to look at developing lower priced homes and yet still be profitable. Right after the housing bust, we did see developers start building homes in the \$120,000 price range, but those type subdivisions are not coming in for review at this time. We are working with the Community Development Department to see what we can partner with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and the developer to make affordable subdivisions more appealing. We are looking at amenities that could be paid with CDBG funding such as street lights, curb and gutter, etc. We are also looking at bringing affordability in our downtown area with new construction. The City has one area developed for tiny homes that sell in the \$35,000 to \$55,000 price range and the tiny home community is starting to fill up.

The City will look at land and zoning changes to increase density in planned developments earmarking some of the development to be affordable. We will look at any vacant, City-owned properties that might be sold for \$1 per lot to be used for creation of affordable housing.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources to meet the underserved needs of low-and moderate-income people. Applicant request amounts are generally much higher than the entitlement amount especially when it comes to the public service 15% cap. The City, when feasible, partners with other non-profits to leverage their funding application. We continually reassess our policies and make adjustments in response to changing market conditions and service needs. In the past two years, the City has shifted greater resources towards our housing rehabilitation program to keep our existing older housing stock in good condition. This keeps these homes from falling into disrepair and presenting hazards to the residents.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) emphasizes prevention of childhood lead poisoning through housing-based approaches. To reduce lead-based paint hazards, the rehabilitation of housing units built prior to January 1, 1978 includes a lead-based paint testing and risk

assessment. Where lead-based paint is identified, the City ensures that developers and contractors incorporate safe work practices or abate the lead-based paint as part of the scope of work to effectively reduce lead-based paint hazards to children in accordance with 24 CFR Part 35.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City continues with their existing programs that promote a stable living environment and helps to reduce dependency. The City did 16 housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs to help the low-to-moderate-income remain in their homes. Our housing program promotes a stable living environment and reduces dependency and also prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possibly institutionalization. We will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods with the greatest number of low-to-moderate-income residents. The partnerships the City has with its non-profit agencies helps to provide services that could go a long way in providing that family with more income for the necessities of life and help keep that family out of the severe poverty level. Transportation assistance impacts our low income elderly and disabled citizens in that it allows them to use the money they need for transportation on other needs in their lives. The City works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families and strengthen neighborhoods. We use CDBG funding to provide services for low-income residents with the objective of providing basic needs and improving their quality of life and the quality of life for all residents in the City. We support agencies that address critical and emergency human services needs of low-income persons and families. We support programs that support positive outcomes that promote and help maintain self-sufficiency and meet short-term and long-term needs.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Mayor, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and Federal grants. All reports in 2018 were submitted timely. Funds were drawn down in a timely manner and the City met their drawdown percentages prior to the November 1, 2018 deadline. The City's Annual Action Plan for 2018 was submitted on time. We provided needed services for the City's target low-income populations with 2018 funding.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City sought partnerships to leverage 2018 funding. If the cap on public service could be lifted, we would have been able to see more partnerships. The CDBG Administrator is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care organization. The membership of this organization consists of the majority of the housing and social services agencies in Northwest Arkansas. The City is definitely involved with non-profits and organizations that are working to address poverty through community engagement.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

For many households, low or no income is a major factor in preventing their exercise of housing choice. Minority populations in the City of Rogers are confronted with an ever higher percentage of their populations living in poverty compared to Whites. Households experiencing a severe lack of income and those unemployed typically face limitations in fair housing choice. The City and local Chamber of Commerce are continuing work on expanding job opportunities through the recruitment of corporations, the provision of incentives for local corporations seeking expansion opportunities, and other activities aimed at reducing unemployment and expanding the base of high income plus provide jobs that support persons with high school educations, GED's, community colleges, and technical schools. Recruiting such industries can assist in increasing the local tax base while serving to provide necessary income for more persons to earn a living wage and improve their ability to qualify for home ownership. The City is also working to increase public awareness of fair housing rights and legislation.

As part of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan process, the City selected a contractor to do the City's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) report. In developing the report, the contractor convened focus groups with fair housing and community organizations and the real estate industry. The contractor also met with key city departments and sister agencies to learn about their efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. Working with all of the above, the contractor developed a series of recommendations for action items which will serve as the Fair Housing Plan for the City. The AFFH report was completed in August of 2017 and is located on the City's website. Starting in 2018, the City will begin working to meet those goals established for 2018-2022.

As a way to further fair housing in the City of Rogers, the City will be working with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission to do a town hall meeting in our City. This was originally scheduled for 2018, but the Fair Housing Commission Director in Little Rock requested that due to her schedule, we reschedule the town hall meet to summer of 2019. Cancellation was done before any preparations had been made. This town hall meeting will provide educational opportunities to prevent discrimination and address issues that impact the City's fair housing efforts.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The City of Rogers has established procedures to monitor the use of Federal grant funds. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Staff administered all activities in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. All agencies receiving funding entered into an agreement with the City of Rogers and were monitored by the CDBG Administrator. All housing rehabilitation activities followed bidding requirements except those that were deemed emergency and required immediate help. An emergency is when a health and/or safety issue is at hand. Work was permitted and inspected prior to the start of the work, during the work, and at the end of the work before final payment was made. Any code violations found at initial inspection were added to the scope of the work. The City's transportation assistance program was monitored to make sure all recipients of free rides met all the income requirements established by HUD for 2018. A file was set up for each activity and documentation for that activity was made a part of the completed file used by HUD for their onsite monitoring. Three City employees--Accounts Payable, Finance Director, CDBG Administrator--oversaw the handling of the City's CDBG funds. This provided a good check and balance for these funds. The CDBG Office was also part of the City's annual audit and all paperwork concerning the audit was filed in accordance with Federal guidelines. No files will be archived without inspection by the Arkansas HUD field office. The City made sure all grantees that performed services for the City complied with all applicable Federal regulations governing their administrative, financial, and program operations. To ensure this, technical assistance was provided to all subrecipients and monitoring was done. The CAPER and IDIS continue to be used as effective monitoring resource documents. They serve as accurate measures of performance in terms of eligible beneficiaries served, program target areas, and dollars identified for the project. The City also submits an annual Section 3 Compliance Report with each CAPER.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

To ensure that resident's priorities and needs are addressed in the Action Plan, the City holds at least two public hearings each year. The public hearings provide an opportunity for residents to explore entitlement grant programming leads and to communicate their views and comments to the City.

In 2018 the following public hearings were held:

May 29, 2018, a public hearing was held to review the final 2018 Action Plan prior to submittal to HUD.

July 31, 2018, a public hearing was held for planning purposes to start writing the 2019 Action Plan.

One comment period was also held in 2018--March 14, 2018. This was a comment period for the 2017 CAPER prior to submission to HUD.

All public hearings were held in building that had access for persons with disabilities. The hearings were scheduled during the evening to provide working individuals and families a greater opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person was made available to non-English speaking persons. Copies of these plans were placed in four locations in Rogers as well as online making accessibility to the Plans easy for our residents.

The CAPER was also placed at four locations as well as online, and a 15-day comment period was given to our residents prior to submitting the CAPER to HUD. An amendment to the 2018 Plan has been submitted.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

There have been no significant changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program objectives. The City does not plan to change its programs as a result of any experience we have encountered. We will continue to provide services to our low-income residents, promote fair housing, help with homeless prevention, provide funding for facility and infrastructure needs, and continue our housing rehabilitation program.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

N/A

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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N/A